Off-Campus Housing Luncheon
May 21, 2009

Dr. H. Sam Miller
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Student Affairs Initiatives

Admissions Update

Construction
WCU recognized “With Distinction” on the President’s 2008 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

The Carnegie Foundation has recognized WCU as an “engaged learning” university.

US News and World Report identify WCU as a “Best Buy” and rank WCU fourteenth among all public universities in the Southeastern US.
Applications for Freshman class are up!
ENROLLMENT PICTURE

- Western just graduated a record size class in May.

- Entering first year classes in Fall 2008 and Fall 2007 were smaller than expected.

- For this fall, we’re expecting a first year class of 1450-1525 students with an even stronger HS-GPA/SAT profile.

- Over the next couple of years, the state budget for higher educ is likely to call for zero enrollment growth funding.

- WCU total enrollment likely to stay flat or grow very slowly over the next two-three years.
What is Western PEAKS?

Western PEAKS is a caring community that provides students with a strong foundation to begin their academic career by engaging residents in opportunities which enhance learning, facilitate positive life skills, and instill pride in their affiliation with Western Carolina University.
Residential Living

Important Initiatives for On-Campus Housing:

- Successful completion of Balsam and Blue Ridge Halls
- Maintain current capacity and improve occupancy rates
- Upgrade and renovate residence halls
- Continue supporting retention building initiatives
- Communicate more effectively with students and parents
- Assess and report specific learning outcomes
WCU Community Creed

Creed: a system of beliefs, principles, and aspirations

- I will practice personal and academic integrity.
- I will respect the dignity and rights of all persons.
- I will demonstrate concern for others and live up to my community responsibilities.
- I will engage myself in the arts, culture, and intellectual life of my University.
- I will celebrate and take pride in Western Carolina University.
Student Community Ethics

• Alcohol use is a risk factor that impacts every dimension of student life. Western is working to address this with proactive interventions.

• All entering freshmen must complete the on-line Alcohol-Wise training course before returning to campus in the fall.
CatTracker is part of WCU’s emergency communications systems. Register your cell phone to enable your ability to receive emergency text messages.
The New Dining Hall will replace Dodson Cafeteria and include more name brand eating options. This project is will open Fall 2009.
This $42M construction project started in March 2008. Balsam Hall opens Fall 2009 and Blue Ridge Hall opens for Fall 2010.

With approximately 800 beds of suite-style living, this new residence hall will feature some of the largest rooms on-campus.

These residence halls will also be home to the Honors College and a Conference Center.
To be constructed in 2010, the Campus Quad project will unite the University Center, Alumni Tower, Student Rec Center, the new Dining Hall and new Residence Halls with a pedestrian walkway in the heart of the campus.
Construction on the new Health and Humans Sciences building will begin in 2009. Groundbreaking ceremonies will be scheduled during the Fall term.
In the near future, the Millennial Initiative includes construction of a neighborhood with shopping and restaurants.